



Questions from the Homeless Health: Covid-19 Variant Infection Control Webinar

KEY WORKERS

- **What should we be telling key workers who are at higher risk but want/need to come into work for financial reasons?**

The Health & Safety Executive has produced guidance on risk assessment. It is important that this guidance is followed. You can find full details here - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/working-safely/risk-assessment.htm>

The guidance for those who are in the clinically extremely vulnerable category currently this states that those in Tier 4 who are clinically extremely vulnerable 'are strongly advised to work from home because the risk of exposure to the virus in your area may be significantly higher. If you cannot work from home, then you should not attend work.'

Please see the guidance for the definition of those who are in the clinically extremely vulnerable group. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>.

- **If a staff member lives in a lower tier area, does their worker status enable them to travel in to work in a Tier 4 area or should they stay at home?**

The rules on travelling between tiers are changing regularly. Please read the guidance for the tier in which you live <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

- **Is it necessary for homeless outreach staff who only work outdoors and do not come within 2 metres of clients to wear masks (except when they take someone in)?**

The government's guidance on face coverings can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Your employer may have additional requirements having undertaken a risk assessment.



- **Are there any new measures that we should adopt in infection control?**

[Please watch the whole presentation.](#)

COVID-19 TESTING

- **How can we access the rapid tests? Are they available in Northern Ireland?**

We regret that we can't answer the Northern Ireland question. You will need to talk to your NI Public Health colleagues.

Many local areas are using rapid (Lateral flow devices) for community testing. Contact your local authority public health team for further details about what tests may be available locally.

- **Who will provide access to PCR tests for both guests and staff in charitable projects?**

In London, the Find and Treat team provide outreach testing for the homeless population in a number of locations.

Staff should access tests through the routes available for the rest of the population. See

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Should staff be involved in an outbreak situation additional testing may be provided by Find & Treat and Public Health. For the procedure to follow in an outbreak please see

<https://www.healthy london.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/LCRC-FAQ-V1.2-Homeless-settings.pdf>

ACCOMMODATION

- **Should supported shared accommodation put a temporary hold on new sign-ups?**

All accommodation providers need to follow the detailed government advice on COVID infection prevention and control. Each accommodation location will have its own unique issues. For detailed advice on specific issues please contact your Local Authority's Public Health team.



- **Will residents and staff in supported hostels be prioritised for vaccination?**

This is the current prioritisation advice for COVID vaccinations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-2-december-2020>

SUPPORT & CARE

- **How will people experiencing homeless and deemed clinically vulnerable be best protected?**

There are a number of ways in which people who are clinically vulnerable can be supported to be protected

- *Complying personally with washing hands, wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces, making space (2 metres apart – or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions).*
- *Ensuring that their clinical vulnerability is assessed, and this information is shared with them. For example, by a clinician using the Mini CHRISP tool - [https://www.healthylondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mini-CHRISP-Plus-Tool-Final-191120 .pdf](https://www.healthylondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mini-CHRISP-Plus-Tool-Final-191120.pdf)*
- *It is worth determining whether this has already been done by checking the individual's CHAIN record.*
- *Registering with a GP practice, if not registered. Making sure that all health needs are assessed and followed through.*
- *Making sure that people's needs for mental health support are also recognised and supported.*



- **Is there any financial support for residents isolating?**

Full details of the government financial support arrangements can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/worker-support?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

The detail of the self-isolation payments can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

The arrangements for financial support are very complex. If you can please take advice from any welfare benefits advisors you have access to.

- **Are there more cases in the homeless population than previously seen?**

The number of cases in London is currently increasing, we anticipate that we will see more cases amongst homeless people, as we are generally across the population